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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 October 2007 at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.4/62/1; A/C.4/62/L.1; A/C.4/62/INF/1)

1. **The Chairman**, starting with the same procedural remarks, drew the attention of the Committee to the relevant rules and recommendations of the General Assembly contained in the report of the General Committee (A/62/250) regarding the work of the Main Committees, including those contained in General Assembly decision 34/401 and resolutions 58/126 and 58/316.

2. In order to make full use of the time and conference services made available to the Committee, he intended to convene and adjourn the meetings promptly. All speakers, in particular the first three speakers for a given meeting, should be present in the Committee room on time.

3. He recalled that the General Assembly had decided to continue its practice, of departing from the rule that one quarter of the members must be present for a Committee meeting to be declared open and said that with respect to explanations of vote, rights of reply and points of order, the Committee would conduct its work strictly in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, contained in document A/520/Rev.16, annex V.

4. With respect to resolutions, he drew attention, inter alia, to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 48/264, which encouraged Member States to exercise restraint in making proposals requesting new reports of the Secretary-General and to paragraph 69 of resolution 57/270 B, which requested that resolutions should be short and focus more on action-oriented operative paragraphs.

5. With regard to programme budget implications and rule 153 of the rules of procedure, he noted that the General Assembly had drawn the Committee's attention to paragraph 12 of its decision 34/401, which stated that it was imperative for the Main Committees to allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. That could take a few days, depending on the type and complexity of a proposal. Draft resolutions, draft decisions and amendments should be submitted in writing to the Secretariat as early as possible for the Secretariat required at least 48 hours to process a draft resolution.

6. He also drew attention to document A/C.4/62/1, which contained the agenda items allocated to the Committee, and to document A/C.4/62/L.1, which contained the Committee's programme of work with a proposed timetable.

7. The Committee would continue with the practice of convening panels and holding interactive dialogues under agenda item 29, entitled "Assistance in mine action", agenda item 30, entitled "Effects of atomic radiation", agenda item 31, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", agenda item 32, entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", agenda item 34, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" and agenda item 35, entitled "Questions relating to information".

8. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve the programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.4/62/L.1.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chairman** said that, as at previous sessions, the Committee would establish a working group of the whole to prepare draft resolutions for submission under agenda item 31, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". He took it that the Committee wished to establish the working group.

11. *It was so decided.*

Requests for hearings (Aide-mémoire 01/07)

12. **The Chairman** drew attention to aide-mémoire 01/07, which contained 59 requests for hearings relating to the questions of Gibraltar, Guam, New Caledonia and Western Sahara, and suggested that they be circulated as Committee documents.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chairman** said that he had also received a communication from the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, who wished to make a statement under agenda item 40. The statement would be scheduled accordingly.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.